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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,506	02/12/2004	Tsutomu Yokouchi	07250027AA	3674
30743	7590	11/21/2006		EXAMINER SHAH, MANISH S
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON & COOK, P.C. 11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 340 RESTON, VA 20190			ART UNIT 2853	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/776,506	YOKOUCHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Manish S. Shah	2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshika (# JP 2002-169484) in view of Shigehiro et al. (# US 2003/0099027).

Oshika discloses an image display apparatus including an image display unit having an image display surface (element: 3, figure: 2); an image forming unit for forming an image on said image display surface by ejecting ink droplets toward said image display surface (element: 4, figure: 2, [0015]); and an image erasing unit for erasing the formed image (element: 5, figure: 2; [0010]). They also disclose that at least one of the ink holding regions holds one ink droplet for image formation ([0015]-[0023]).

Oshika differs from the claim of the present invention in that the ink holding regions for holding ink droplets impinged to the image display surface and an ink repelling region for holding no ink are formed on said image display surface, and said ink holding regions are regularly arranged so that each ink holding region is surrounded by said ink repelling region. (2) Each of said ink holding regions are a region subjected to ink receptive treatment and said ink-repelling region is a region subjected to ink repellent treatment. (3) The ink holding regions holds plural ink droplets for image

formation. (4) The ink holding regions holds a part of one ink droplet, whose remaining parts are held by adjacent ink holding regions, for image formation.

Shigehiro et al. teaches that an image forming apparatus includes an image carrier, a means for forming colorant holding regions on the image carrier and colorant repelling region, the colorant holding regions having better ink, a means for supplying colorant to the colorant holding region (see Abstract; [0020]-[0022]). They also teach that each of the ink holding regions is a region subjected to ink receptive treatment and the ink-repelling region is a region subjected to ink repellent treatment ([0010], [0020]-[0022], [0047]). The ink holding regions holds plural ink droplets (pixels) for image formation (see figure: 1-16, [0020]-[0022], [0115], [0148]). The ink holding regions holds a part of one ink droplet, whose remaining parts are held by adjacent ink holding regions, for image formation (figure: 1-16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the image display apparatus of Oshika by the aforementioned teaching of Shigehiro et al. in order to have a high contrast image and has improved image-holding property.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manish S. Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-2152. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Manish S. Shah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2853

MSS

11/10/06